

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 CU-04 /079 W

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R 051340Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3725

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS LAGOS 02745

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,PDIP, UK, NI

SUBJECT: RECALL OF BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NIGERIA

REF: (A) LAGOS 710 (B) KADUNA 248

1. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF MEA MARCH 4 STATEMENT
ANNOUNCING THAT AT FMG'S REQUEST BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED
TO RECALL BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NIGERIA, SIR MARTIN
LE QUESNE.

2. QTE THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED THE
RECALL OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, SIR MARTIN LE QUESNE,
AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO HIS RECALL. SIR MARTIN,
ACCORDINGLY, LEFT NIGERIA TODAY.
IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT
HAD EARLIER REJECTED A FORMAL NOTE OF CLAIM LODGED BY SIR MARTIN
LE QUESNE, WHICH HE HAD SOUGHT TO DEPOSIT AT THE MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ASKING FOR FULL REIMBURSEMENT OF THE COST
OF THE DAMAGES DONE TO THE BUILDING AND CONTENT OF THE HIGH
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN THE COURSE OF STUDENT'S DEMONSTRATION
ON 17TH FEBRUARY, 1976.

IN REJECTING THE NOTE, THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAD
EXPRESSED DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER
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COULD BE TALKING ABOUT "REIMBURSEMENT" FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY A
DEMONSTRATION EMANATING FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTS LEAKED BY HIS OFFICE.

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT ALSO EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT
SIR MARTIN'S LACK OF SENSITIVITY FOR THE GRIEF OF A NATION THAT
HAD LOST ITS HEAD OF STATE. UNQTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL RECALL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS02745
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760085-0700
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760391/aaaadcim.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LAGOS 710, 76 KADUNA 248
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <14 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECALL OF BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NIGERIA
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, UK, NI, (LEQUESNE, MARTIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006